

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-03 PM-07 SS-20

NSC-07 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 EB-11 SP-03 EURE-00 SAJ-01 SIL-01 LAB-06

USIE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 DRC-01 /108 W

----- 087608

O 121608Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3950

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: BMEWS COMMUNICATIONS LINK

1. GOC HAS INDICATED TO EMBASSY SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST AND CONCERN IN ASSURING THAT PROPER AND LEGAL PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED IN THE EVENT ITT EMPLOYEES WHO OPERATE SUBJECT BMEWS LINE GO ON STRIKE. GOC IS PARTICULARLY INSISTENT THAT CONSULTATIONS BE HELD BETWEEN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS OF TWO GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO ANY POSSIBLE DISPATCH OF USAF PERSONNEL BY USG TO OPERATE LINE IF STRIKE OCCURES. EXTAFF UNDERSECRETARY RITCHIE HAS TAKEN STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN ISSUE AND IN REVIEW BY EXTAFF OF US-CANADIAN AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT APPLICABLE IN CASE.

2. COMMENT: WHILE CANADIAN CONCERN WAS INITIALLY BASED ON FEAR OF "US STRIKEBREAKERS" ARRIVING ON SCENE ON EVE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS, FOCUS IS NOW ON INHERENT EMBARRASSMENT WHICH COULD BE CAUSED GOC AS GURANTOR OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY BY POSSIBILITY THAT AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT MIGHT PERMIT US FORCES TO MOVE INTO CANADA DURING PEACETIME AND TAKE OVER A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS
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INFORMATION ON AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT APPLICABLE THIS

SITUATION. FURTHER, EMBASSY REQUESTS SUFFICIENT TIME
BE ALLOWED FOR ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH EXTAFB BEFORE
ANY USAF MANNING OF LINE IS ORDERED. EMBASSY BELIEVES
EXTAFB WILL BE SYMPATHETIC, GIVEN ITS OWN INTEREST IN
MAINTENANCE OF UNINTERRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, BUT,
FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS, NEEDS BE ABLE PRESENT
PICTURE, IF NECESSARY, OF PRIOR BILATERAL CONSULTATION
AND AGREEMENT. EXTAFB INFORMED EMBASSY JULY 10 THAT NEW
MEDIATION SCHEDULE PUTS OFF POSSIBLE STRIKE BY AT LEAST
TWO ADDITIONAL WEEKS.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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